What is claimed is:

1. An optical input device, comprising:

a light source for reflecting a light beam from a working surface;

an optical sensing module that detects the reflected light beam, sets a coefficient based on the reflected light beam, and stores the coefficient, the coefficient indicating optical properties of the working surface;

a control unit coupled to the optical sensing module for reading the coefficient and outputting a feedback signal based on the coefficient; and

a pulse width modulation coupled to the control unit for receiving the feedback signal and, based thereon, variably modulating the light beam generated by the light source.

2. The device of claim 1, wherein the coefficient is stored in a register within the optical sensing module.

3. The device of claim 1, wherein the coefficient is a surface quality value (SQUAL).

4. The device of claim 1, wherein the light source is a light emitting diode.

5. The device of claim 1, wherein the control unit modulates a frame rate and/or a shutter mode based on the coefficient.

6. The device of claim 1, wherein the input device is an optical mouse.

7. A method of controlling the intensity of a light source in an optical input device that is moved over a working surface, comprising:

a. retrieving a first and a second coefficient that represents an optical property of the working surface based on light emitted by a light source and reflected from the working surface;

b. comparing the first and second coefficients; and

c. correcting either the present frame rate or the shutter mode, or modifying the intensity of the light emitted from the light source based on an algorithm.